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John Stillman Lothrop

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MARCO LOOMIS BARTLETT was born at Brownhelm, Ohio, October 25, 1847, and died in Des Moines, March 15, 1919. His youth was spent on a farm. At Oberlin College he early took instruction on violin and in voice. Soon thereafter he began his long career as a musical instructor, as he there became director of the Baptist Church choir. He went from there to Meadville, Penn., and taught music there and conducted a church choir. He later did the same in Orange, New Jersey. He then went to New York City where he was the first to introduce the specialized teaching of music in the public schools. In New York he studied under some of the best known instructors and sang and directed music in several leading churches, among them being Grace Church where Bishop Potter was rector. After six years in New York he removed to Chicago and was equally active there, but in 1886 went to Des Moines and remained there actively engaged in teaching music and training choirs and orchestras. In St. Paul's Episcopal Church he organized the first boy's choir. He established the first orchestra of any size in Des Moines. He gave the Messiah, the Creation, Elijah and other choral works their first performance in Des Moines. It was through his efforts that many great artists were brought to Des Moines, among them being Nordica, Melba, Carreno, Alice Nielson, Schumann-Heink, McCormack, Kubelik and Alma Gluck and among the organizations he brought were the Thomas Orchestra, the New York Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Minneapolis Orchestra. He was a strong force in developing the musical taste of the people of Des Moines and of Iowa.

JOHN STILLMAN LOTHROP was born at Dover, Maine, October 9, 1836, and died at Sioux City, Iowa, July 1, 1913. He came with his family in 1852 to Illinois and lived on a farm until 1859 when he entered the Chicago Law School. When the war opened he enlisted in the Eleventh Illinois Infantry and re-enlisted in the Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry and was commissioned captain. After the war he practiced law at Ottawa, Illinois, and later at Champaign, Illinois, until 1884 when he removed to Sioux City, Iowa. Here he was quite successful in his law practice, especially in drainage cases, in which he specialized. President Harrison appointed him collector of internal revenue with headquarters at Dubuque and he served one term. In 1895 he was elected senator and served in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth extra and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies. After retiring from the legislature he was successful in securing for the state of Iowa from the United States a refunding of interest on certain war and defense bonds issued in 1861, amounting to \$456,417.89, for which service he was paid \$7,500. In 1912 he was elected commander of the Loyal Legion of Iowa. He was a political orator of reputation.

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